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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Reniero et al.
Appl. No.: PCT/EP00/01797
Filed: March 2, 2000
Title: LACTIC ACID BACTERIA STRAINS CAPABLE OF PREVENTING DIARRHOEA
Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Docket No.: 112843-031

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 3 and 6-11 as follows:

3. (Once Amended) The lactobacillus according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

6. (Once Amended) A method for preparing an ingestable support material comprising the step of using lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing the intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

7. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the Lactobacillus strain is contained in the ingestable support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

8. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein the ingestable support material is a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formulae.

9. (Once Amended) A method for the treatment of a disorder associated with diarrhoea comprising the step of administering to a patient suffering a disorder associated with diarrhoea lactic acid bacterium belonging to the genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing the intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.